

World Bank Education Response to COVID-19 – Project Examples

Operations

- In [Jordan](#) and [Turkey](#), through recently approved new operations, the Bank is supporting the development of TV and digital content for blended teaching and learning when schools reopen, as well as psycho-social counseling and remedial courses.
- In Nigeria, the Bank-supported [EdoBEST@Home](#) program delivers remote learning through interactive radio lessons, digital self-study activity packets, and lesson plans for parents distributed via WhatsApp.
- In Ceará/Brazil, the Bank is supporting [expanded internet connectivity and infrastructure](#), and the development of digital educational material for in-person and remote learning.
- In [Egypt](#), the Bank is helping expand e-learning content to all basic education, strengthening e-assessment, and providing online teacher training.
- In [India](#), [Ghana](#), [Zambia](#), [Dominican Republic](#), [Ecuador](#), and [Guyana](#), the Bank is supporting computer-assisted learning technology that helps teachers tailor instruction to students' learning needs.
- In [Pakistan](#), the Bank is supporting the government to fund online platforms and provide devices and connectivity to around 1.2 million university students.
- In the [Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\)](#) the WB team is working with the government to adapt existing Interactive Audio Instruction sessions for parents to engage with children at home, delivered through public radio via the government's distance education program, which is expected to reach 1 million young children.
- In [Senegal](#), the WB team worked with the government to prepare an emergency response to COVID, including distribution of hygiene kits, emergency food rations and home learning materials to 270,000 young children and their families.
- A study covering 35 low-, middle-, and high-income countries found that having at least one children's book at home almost doubled the likelihood of the child being on track for literacy and numeracy, controlling for variables such as maternal education and wealth index quintile, children's age, and area of residence. The Bank has launched [Read@Home](#) as a major new initiative to get reading, learning, and play materials into homes, targeting 3- to 12-year-olds and supporting parents to engage in children's learning. In the coming months, the program will reach 13 countries, including: El Salvador, Honduras, Cameroon, Mozambique, North Macedonia, Senegal, Sudan, Niger, and the Philippines.
- Active in 19 countries across the African continent, the [African Centers of Excellence Initiatives](#) (ACEI, ACEII, and ACE Impact I & II) have supported universities and their research faculties in developing rapid response initiatives, which have included such efforts as: the development of personal protection equipment (PPE) and hand and object sanitizers, creation of public awareness campaigns for personal hygiene and social distancing, and the training of medical technicians to lead rapid COVID testing initiatives and, imminently, community-wide vaccination efforts.
- In [Afghanistan](#), the Bank is supporting the TVET Authority in ensuring continuity of learning through using a variety of distance learning channels (TV, radio, flash drives, CDs, and provision of devices) tailored to Afghanistan's economic, geographic and security context.

- The digital skills agenda, underpinned by the analytical work already conducted before COVID-19 via the [Digital Skills Pillar of the Digital Economy for Africa](#) (DE4A) initiative has served as a launchpad for operational engagements, such as in Nigeria, Cameroon, and Mozambique, among others.

Monitoring and assessing the situation

- To assess learning and economic losses at the country level, the Bank created a [simulation tool](#), which has been used in Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Philippines, Russia, Turkey, Vietnam, and several other countries so far.
- And to help countries make the difficult decisions of where to put their scarce financial resources, the United Kingdom and the World Bank supported the creation of a new multidisciplinary [Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel](#) of leading education experts, and its first [report](#) identifies cost-effective ways to improve global learning.
- The Bank is monitoring and analyzing the structural fractures to support our clients in responding thoughtfully and effectively while also looking for the opportunities that inevitably arise from a crisis of this magnitude – looking at where to double down on ICT and technology innovations where reasonable; using universities and TVET centers as hubs for problem solving and community service to an even greater degree; and recognizing that teachers at every stage in the education pipeline need to be retrained with the skills and pedagogical frameworks that support non-traditional learning environments and their millennial learners.

Guiding countries' efforts on remote learning

- The World Bank has assembled a repository of more than 80 country experiences, over [140 curated learning resources](#), and over 20 guidance notes, and knowledge resource packs, as well as a real-time SMS-based tool to assess learning efforts, and the [EdTech Hub](#) to offer timely technical advice.
- Given the novelty of the use of education technology at national scale, we are also funding randomized control trials to test the effectiveness of using different technologies to improve learning and skills through the [Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund](#). The World Bank is also part of a consortium with UNESCO and UNICEF implementing [a \\$25 million grant](#) from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), supporting the development, dissemination and delivery of new and existing learning continuity interventions, at scale.

Supporting school reopening

- To support national preparations and implementation of school reopening, the Bank launched a [Framework for Reopening Schools](#) towards the beginning of the pandemic, in June, jointly with UNICEF, UNESCO, WFP, and UNHCR. A [supplement to this framework documenting emerging lessons from country experiences in managing the process of reopening schools](#) was launched in September.
- In addition, the World Bank partnered with UNICEF and UNESCO to launch the [Global Guidance on Reopening Early Childhood Education Settings](#).